

Candy Core Sampling

Simple Science Activity

Purpose:	Students take core samples of candy bars to model how geologists take core samples of the Earth.
Standard(s):	<p>S6E5. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to show how Earth’s surface is formed.</p> <p>h. Plan and carry out an investigation to provide evidence that soil is composed of layers of weathered rocks and decomposed organic material.</p>
Materials:	Assorted mini or fun-size candy bars, clear straws, scissors, paper plate, paper towels
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unwrap a candy bar and put it on a paper plate. 2. Using the straw, poke through the top of the candy bar. Be sure to get the straw all the way through to the bottom of the candy bar. 3. Pull the straw out of the candy bar. Wet a paper towel and wipe off the outside of the straw. 4. Cut the straw just above the candy core sample. Place your candy core sample next to the wrapper for the candy bar, to keep track of which candy bar it came from. 5. Repeat steps 1–4 for at least one other type of candy bar. 6. Lay your candy core samples side by side keeping track of which one is which. Observe the samples. How are your samples similar? How are they different? 7. Swap a random core sample with a friend. Can you identify it?
Science Behind It:	<p>Geologists take core samples of soil and rocks on Earth and examine the core samples to learn things about Earth’s history. The core samples can tell them about Earth's history, like the climate or the types of animals that were alive at a certain time. They can even figure out when volcanoes erupted in the past by looking for layers of volcanic ash.</p> <p>Core samples can also be used to learn about other planets and bodies in our solar system. NASA missions have gathered core samples from the Moon, and Mars for future analysis.</p> <p>Like the Earth, candy bars have multiple layers of different ingredients. When you take a core sample using a clear straw, you can see the layers.</p>

Questions to Ask:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How are your candy core samples similar? How are they different?• Can you identify the candy bar by the core sample?• How is this like how geologists take core samples of the Earth?
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Adapted from <https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/candy-core-samples>